



People of Faith

Blessed Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Blessed Carlos Manuel Rodriguez was born in Puerto Rico on November 22, 1918. His friends called him "Charlie." Charlie wanted to help people do things to make the world more Christian. During his life he spent a lot of time gathering people into study groups. He thought it was important for all baptized people to be involved in spreading the faith. He also spent time translating English liturgy into Spanish so that the members of the Church in Puerto Rico could pray in their own language. Charlie's belief in the Resurrection of Jesus was very important to his life. Because of this, the Easter Vigil was an important celebration for him.

Sister Thea Bowman Thea was born in Canton, Mississippi. Her grandfather was a slave, and her father was a doctor. She was the first African American woman to receive her doctorate in theology from Boston College. Using song, dance, poetry, and stories, Sister Thea helped African American Catholics, both children and adults, put together celebrations of the Mass that expressed the life, joy, and story of their culture.

Pope Saint John Paul II John Paul II was born in Poland. When he was growing up, he saw people who were Christian being unkind to people who were Jewish. Very few people would help the Jews, not even some Church people. This made him sad. Later, when he became pope, John Paul wrote a letter to the people who were Jewish. He said the Church was sorry for the way Christians had treated them. He asked for forgiveness. Another time, a man shot Pope John Paul II. The pope was hurt and went to the hospital. The police caught the man who had shot the pope and put him in jail. When the pope got better, he went to the jail to meet the man who had shot him. He forgave him. Pope John Paul showed us how to say, "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you."

Jean Donovan Jean Donovan was a young Catholic American woman who listened to God's word. She showed that God's word was in her heart. She loved people and she loved life. As a college student, Jean began visiting the sick and elderly. She even cooked meals for them. The more she worked with the poor, the more she knew that she did not need a lot of things to make her happy. She could be happy by serving others. Later, Jean became a missionary in Central America and gave up her life for her faith.

Venerable Maria Teresa Quevedo Maria Teresa was born in Spain. When she was three, Maria Teresa's mother said: "She is a bundle of happiness. Everyone loves her. She is pretty as a picture but terribly self-willed. She cannot be crossed." Maria Teresa was a picky eater. Sometimes she was rude to others and would not say she was sorry when she hurt them. After her First Communion, her parents noticed that she changed. She began to be kind and loving toward others. As she grew up, Maria Teresa kept her happy spirit and made many friends. When she was eleven years old, she wrote in her notebook, "I have decided to become a saint." She lived a short life, but she used the time to become close to Jesus.

Paschal Baylon Paschal was born in France on Pentecost Sunday. His family named him Paschal because he was born during the Easter season. Another name for the Easter season is the Paschal season. As a boy Paschal helped his father on the family farm. He took care of the sheep. Paschal taught himself to read. He loved to pray to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He became a Franciscan lay brother, often serving as a cook or doorkeeper. As an adult he kept his great love of the Eucharist and helped other people believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland. He was considered a "wild young boy. " He was very smart and loved science and mathematics. Some people thought he would become a scientist, but he became a Franciscan priest. During World War II, Maximilian was a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. One of his fellow prisoners was condemned to die. The man begged the Nazis for his life. He wanted to be able to take care of his family after the war. Maximilian offered to take his place. When Pope John Paul II made Maximilian a saint, the man whose life he had saved was at the ceremony.

Saint Therese of Lisieux Therese was the youngest of five daughters. She lived in France. She loved Jesus very much and wanted to serve God as a missionary, but she was not strong enough. At fifteen, Therese became a Carmelite sister. She decided that the best thing she could do for others was to do the ordinary everyday things very well. She became known for her goodness. She wrote a book about her friendship with God. She only lived twenty-four years, but millions of people have read the book she wrote. Many of them learned to serve God by following Therese's example. After she died, the pope named her patroness of the missions.